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Shamir: 'Shooter is a "world Zionist plan"

AMMAN (R) — The Islamic Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) called for immediate action against Israel Monday following the killing of eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv. It termed the killing "a clear Zionist plan" to force Palestinians from their land to make way for Israel. In the Saudi city of Jeddah, OIC Secretary-General Abdellatif Chaib said the United Nations should "force Israel through appropriate international measures to join the ongoing efforts for a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict." He also urged the international community to provide protection for the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. Chaib said Sunday's shooting was part of a "world Zionist plan and criminal conspiracy aimed at terrorizing the Palestinians and forcing them to leave their country for the benefit of thousands of thousands of Soviet Jewish migrants (arriving) with the view of building a greater Israel."

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Shamir gets \$17m for settlements

TELE AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir won parliamentary approval Monday for more than \$17 million to build roads and Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories. Avraham Shohat, chairman of parliament's finance committee, said Shamir's request for the money from a contingency fund was approved 15 to seven by the right-wing dominated panel. Shamir requested the funds as acting finance minister in an interim government. Shohat, a Labour member, told Reuters: "The decision is not good or correct, and the timing is very bad. There is enough tension around Israel and we don't need to give it more fuel."

Greece upgrades ties with Israel

ATHENS (AP) — Greece has granted full diplomatic recognition to Israel for the first time since the Jewish state was founded in 1948, Premier Constantine Mitsotakis said Monday. He told a cabinet meeting that the government has also upgraded diplomatic ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to resemble those presently existing between France and the PLO. Greece is the last member of the 12-nation European Community (EC) to grant Israel full recognition. But Mitsotakis told his cabinet that "de jure" recognition "does not recognise the annexation nor the occupation by Israel of Arab territories seized in 1967." Greece has often expressed its opposition to Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and its policy towards the Palestinians.

Bhutto arrives in Libya

Tripoli (R) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi gave Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a red-carpet welcome Monday as she arrived in Tripoli on the seventh leg of a Middle East tour. Bhutto, who has already visited Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen and Egypt, was greeted by a 19-gun salute at Tripoli airport and quickly west into a meeting with Qadhafi. "The main subject that came under discussion was Kashmir," said a Pakistani spokesman. Bhutto is seeking support for Pakistan's position over Kashmir.

Iraq received 'triggers in mail'

LONDON (R) — Iraq's London embassy said on Monday it received an anonymous envelope containing "nuclear triggers" in last week's mail and it described the incident as another attempt to blacken Iraq's reputation. The embassy said in a statement the electronic devices were handed to the Foreign Office "informing them of the facts related to this matter, and to draw their attention to the intentions behind such attempts, particularly to damage Iraq's reputation and harm Iraqi-British relations." A Foreign Office spokesman said Iraqi Charge d'affaires Zuhair Ibrahim delivered the envelope containing 28 devices to Deputy Undersecretary Roger Tonks Monday afternoon.

Arafat, Mandela meet in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat, both champions of revolutionary change and now elderly world figures, greeted each other warmly Saturday and swapped notes on their campaigns in Africa and the Middle East. Arafat, pistol strapped to his side and wearing military fatigues and checked Palestinian scarf or keffiyeh, shook hands vigorously with the grey-suited Mandela. They beamed at one another. It was their first meeting. "We're brothers in suffering," said Arafat. "We have a lot to talk about. We're in the same trench," he added. "Yes, but it's okay to suffer when it's in a good cause," replied Mandela, the black nationalist freed in February after 27 years in prison and now negotiating with Pretoria for an end to apartheid and the formation of a non-racial state.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جordan Times Foundation

GEN. DIVISION

France condemns Tel Aviv killings

PARIS (R) — France expressed serious concern Monday at the weekend murder of eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv and offered condolences to the grieving families and the Palestinian nation, the Foreign Ministry said. "The aggravation of the situation in the occupied territories and the new losses of life which followed this massacre provoke serious concern in France as well as the international community," the ministry statement said. The statement referred to Sunday's shooting of eight Arabs by an Israeli soldier described as "deranged" and subsequent protest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in which Israeli forces killed eight other Arabs and injured 650 people. "France again calls for the opening of international negotiations and is examining, in consultation with the European Community, which immediate aid measures are appropriate," it said. Foreign Ministry sources added that Paris had asked for a meeting of European Community (EC) experts as soon as possible to assess the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Palestinian fury unleashed amid world condemnation of Israel

Army kills 3 more and wounds 100 in occupied W. Bank, Gaza

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinians and wounded over 100 others Monday as widespread violent protests continued in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and spread to several Israeli towns against a massacre of eight Palestinians by an Israeli gunman and another eight by the Israeli army Sunday.

Many world countries condemned the massacre and the subsequent Israeli violence against the Palestinians, and the United Nations Security Council called an emergency session to discuss the situation in the occupied territories in response to a request by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

At least one million Palestinians were confined to their towns by mass curfews imposed by the occupation authorities, but it appeared that the sweeping measures did little to curb widespread protests and clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Jordan urges big powers to protect Palestinians

AMMAN — Jordan Monday called on the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to provide protection for the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip against Israel's oppressive measures and atrocities and emphasized that the five big powers should shoulder their responsibility towards ensuring world peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem called in the ambassadors of the United States, France, Britain, the Soviet Union and China to voice the Kingdom's strong denunciation of a massacre of eight Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman and another eight Palestinians by the Israeli army in the massive protests that followed. Over 700 Palestinians were shot and wounded.

"Jordan strongly condemns Israel's heinous and terrorist actions committed against the defenseless Palestinians and demands that the U.N. Security Council bear responsibility for ensuring world security and peace," Qasem was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

(Continued on page 5)



Police investigators at the scene of Monday morning's attack on a tourist bus (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

France sees attack as 'isolated incident'

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The French government does not consider Monday's attack against a group of French tourists as aimed at French policies or actions, according to a source close to the French embassy.

"Israel is practically waging a comprehensive war against the Palestinians and the Arab Nation," he said. "Therefore, the message to the Arab summit is clear... it has either to confront the challenge by endorsing practical steps to defend the

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Palestinians in Lebanon vow to avenge killings in Israel

BEIRUT (R) — "Every man, woman, child and infant should carry a rifle and take revenge," said one of thousands of angry Palestinians protesting in Lebanon's refugee camps at the killing of seven Arabs in Israel Sunday.

"The blood of our martyrs is calling us... we have no enemy but Israel," wailed Um Adnan at the grave of her two sons as Palestinians swearing revenge shook their machine-guns skywards.

"With these hands I washed the blood and wrapped the bodies of my two sons who became martyrs while fighting Israel in South Lebanon. There is still me and my daughters to follow."

She was among hundreds waving black flags and banners in the cemetery of the Bourj Al-Barajneh Camp in west Beirut.

"What was taken by force will

not be restored except by force," said one banner.

The demonstration was called by Palestinian factions to protest at the killing of the Arabs in Rishon Lezion near Tel Aviv by a gunman described by Israel as "deranged."

"If he was mad why didn't he shoot Israelis? Why did he search for Arabs in Jewish-populated areas and slaughter them? The answer is the hatred of the Arabs..."

This is worse than Nazism," said Abu Hussein, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official.

Hussein said all Palestinian groups based in Lebanon would increase their efforts to enter Israel and its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"We are ready to launch suicide operations," said Abu Al Ghadah (father of anger), a Palestinian guerrilla official.

"The armed struggle is the only way to deal with the Zionists because violence is the only thing they know."

In the Ain Al Hilweh Refugee Camp 40 kilometres southeast of Beirut, thousands of Palestinians paraded through the narrow alleys chanting anti-Israeli slogans.

"Allah-U-Akbar (God is Great) with our blood and soul we redeem you Palestine," chanted the crowd, led by offi-

cials from the various Palestinian guerrilla factions.

Zeid Wehbeh, the representative of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told reporters "the butchers behind the massacre which targeted Palestinian workers are Americans and Israelis."

Refugees at Ain Al Hilweh and nearby Miyeh Camp and camps in the port city of Tyre stopped work. Shops, schools and businesses closed. Black flags flew from mosques.

Masked Palestinian guerrillas burned tyres and children carried stones as a symbol of the 29-month uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) planned a protest in Beirut's southern suburbs for Tuesday. The Syrian-backed Amal militia called for a strike throughout Lebanon Wednesday.

PLO to press Arab summit for funds

ABU DHABI (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), facing a cash squeeze from funding the uprising, will press Arab leaders at their summit in Baghdad this month to pay them promised two years ago.

Jawed Al Ghusein, chairman of the Palestine National Fund (PNF), told Reuters in an interview Sunday that the PLO would present a paper on the mass influx of Soviet Jews to Israel at the meeting from May 28.

"But we will also ask them to support the intifada and give the aid that they pledged at their 1988 summit meeting in Algiers," he said at his office in Abu Dhabi.

Ghusein said the PLO had not received "a single penny" of a lump sum of \$128 million promised them as urgent aid to support the 29-month uprising.

He said that of the extra \$43 million a month also promised, the PLO had received only \$150 million in 1989.

"Our spending on the intifada and other matters exceeded \$300 million last year. This has created a sharp deficit which we cannot make up alone," he said.

The PLO's main financiers recently have been Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

An Arab summit in Baghdad in 1979 promised \$250 million a year to the PLO under a plan to support Arab states which border Israel.

A paper from the PLO's finance organisation, obtained on Sunday, said \$1.25 billion, or only half of the amount, had so far materialised.

Some countries stopped contributing after a few years while others did not pay at all, it said.

The report said the PNF's only regular sources of income were \$31 million a year from Iraq and \$45 million a year from a five per cent income tax gathered from an estimated 700,000 Palestinians living in the Arab Gulf states.

Saudi Arabia also paid \$72 million a year into a special intifada fund, the report said.

It said that since the intifada began, the PLO had spent \$740 million on it compared with Arab aid of \$400 million.

Kuwaiti emir halts legal action against opposition

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's emir suspended legal action against pro-democracy campaigners but the group Monday said the move was a ploy to avoid a constitutional showdown.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Sunday night ordered a halt to proceedings against 14 activists.

While newspapers and officials landed the action, the activists said it would deprive them of the chance to take their campaign to court.

"The initiative of His Highness, the Father, to drop all cases... was a practical embodiment of the pure fatherly spirit His Highness uses with all his Kuwaiti sons," Al Anbar newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Charges against the activists included holding illegal gatherings and distributing leaflets.

The group, pressing since December for a return of parliament dissolved in 1986, had been detained and then gradually released. The last two were freed Saturday.

They said Monday they would continue to urge a boycott of elections, due on June 10 for an interim, four-year National Assembly. They say the assembly will be unconstitutional and tame.

The suspension of legal proceedings was "a clever move that benefitted the government," activist Jassem Saadoun told Reuters.

Court cases against the 14 would have focused attention on the constitutional issue, he said.

The pro-democracy movement says the new assembly will have too many emiri appointees. There will be 25, while 50 other deputies will be elected.

The emir, who cited a foreign conspiracy to destabilise Kuwait when he disbanded parliament, ordered elections last month. He said it would consider the future of democracy in the northern Gulf state.

It was very important for us that our cases went to trial," Abdullah Al Nifsi, one of the activists, said. "We were sure that the verdicts would have been in favour of our cause."

KUNA news agency said the emir made his decision after a group of prominent Kuwaitis visited him Sunday.

Independent candidates, some

spending over four million Syrian pounds (\$357,000) on their campaigns, have wooed voters with feasts, rallies, songs and speeches

Yemens to unite midday today

ADEN, South Yemen (AP) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was traveling to Aden Monday after telling his parliament he was determined to proclaim a merger between the two Yemens at noon Tuesday.

"However, if you decide otherwise, then I shall return home tomorrow," he said, according to the statement broadcast in the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa as the meeting started.

"I am leaving right now for Aden, taking with me the government ministers, and the planes are ready for you to follow me if you agree."

Shortly after, Sanaa Radio reported a paper on the mass sweepings majority to the merger planes.

In Aden, the television was meanwhile broadcasting live coverage of the 111-member Supreme People's Council the television interrupted its programme to report that the meeting asked the leadership to contact the North and "advance the merger date."

The Shura Council and the Supreme People's Council, parliaments of North and South Yemen, had begun their separate meetings in Sanaa and Aden earlier in the day amid mounting indications that the new unified state merging the two Red Sea countries was about to be born.

Radio and Television were

continuously broadcasting national songs, interrupting their programmes to announce proceedings from the two parliamentary sessions and to urge rejoicing over the impending merger.

Folkloric troupes were getting ready to spread a carnival atmosphere in Aden, from which the proclamation is to be made, while truckloads of army and government personnel were redeploying between the two countries in preparation.

The merger was first planned for Nov. 30, then advanced by six months to May 26. But over the past days there was pressure to advance it even more so that the two Yemens go to the upcoming emergency Arab summit on May 28 in Baghdad, Iraq, as one state.

Shortly after the start of the extraordinary session of the 111-member Supreme People's Council the television interrupted its programme to report that the meeting asked the leadership to contact the North and "advance the merger date."

The report added that Foreign Minister Abd Al Aziz Al Baidh had suggested Tuesday. Official and diplomatic sources said that if the North agrees, then the merger will be noon (0900 GMT) Tuesday when the flag of "the Yemen Republic" would go up everywhere in lieu of the two separate flags.

The flag is essentially the tricolor black, white and red one of North Yemen, but minus stars. North Yemen had used that flag, also flown by Egypt, Iraq and Syria, as the one marking the start of the United Arab States, a star to be added for each state.

In North Yemen, the 159-member Shura Council, the name for their legislature, began meeting simultaneously before noon Monday.

At their separate meetings, the two legislatures were presented with a draft agreement reached by North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh and South Yemen.

The agreement spells out the terms for unity and its draft constitution, as well as organising of a transitional period.

It was the first time this agreement was being publicised officially, showing that the two leaders agreed to have the merger advanced by six months and proclaimed on May 26.

The texts broadcast by radio and television also confirmed earlier reports that the unified Yemen will have a ruling five-man presidential council from which a president and vice president are elected.

New Afghan premier presents cabinet, calls for end to war

KABUL (R) — The Soviet-backed Kabul government, presenting its new cabinet Monday, said it was up to Afghans to end nearly 12 years of war instead of waiting for outside powers to decide their future.

"(We) cannot wait for what decision will be made outside the country on Afghanistan," Prime Minister-designate, Fazal Haq Khaliqi, told the National Assembly.

The Kabul government is fighting a virtually stalemate war with Mujahideen rebels who get much of their support from the United States.

But diplomats said a meeting scheduled for May 30 between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush in Washington held the real key to any solution since Afghan

fighters would have to wind down the war if denied foreign supplies.

The Soviet Union has suggested several times that Moscow and Washington both stop supplying weapons to the two Afghan sides.

Khaliqi, severely wounded last month in a rebel attack, was named prime minister this month by Afghan President Najibullah.

Foreign correspondents were taken into the National Assembly hall after Khaliqi, a former provincial governor, had already begun to speak.

Members of the new cabinet were sitting on either side of Khaliqi on the podium. Their names were not immediately given, but those holding some major portfolios appeared unchanged.

The formation of the new

cabinet, the third since Najibullah came to power in late 1987, had been delayed as the government tried to find neutral Afghans to join. Diplomats said those efforts were largely unsuccessful.

Khaliqi said all sides in the war had to follow the government's policy of national reconciliation. He appealed for foreign help to rebuild the country, one of the poorest in the world.

"The achievement of reconciliation among the belligerent sides is our most important national obligation and we will not refrain from any devotion and self-sacrifice," he told 300 assembly members, many wearing tribal turbans.

He said any Afghan who worked for peace, whatever his affiliation, had a role in deciding the country's future.

Cyprus president assures Arabs on Soviet Jews

DOHA (AP) — Cyprus President George Vassilios Monday concluded a trip to two Gulf nations during which he sought to assure Arabs that Cyprus will not be used as a bridge for Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

Vassilios came to Qatar late Sunday following a two-day stay in Kuwait where he held similar talks in Kuwait with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Thani.

In meetings with Kuwait press editors, Vassilios was quoted Monday as saying: "Cyprus does not and will not agree to be used

as a transit base for those immigrants or any others going to Israel."

He added: "Our Soviet friends have informed us they don't intend to use our country as a transit facility for Jews going to Israel. On our part, we will closely monitor this possibility."

Hundreds of Soviet Jews have been travelling to Israel through Cyprus and security has been tightened at Larnaca Airport and Limassol Port, where many of the

travellers board ships for Israel.

The flow of the Soviet Jews into Israel and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories is a priority issue for the Arab World at present.

But Vassilios said the Soviet national carrier Aeroflot was using Cyprus as a landing link for its flights to Kuwait, Damascus, Aden and other capitals and after the easing of travel Soviets go to Cyprus as tourists "and not as emigrants to Israel."

Syrians vote in general elections today

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrians go to the polls Tuesday with a wider choice of candidates than usual as the government of President Hafez Al Assad makes room for independents without abandoning its 20-year hold on power.

Independents are guaranteed 84 seats in parliament, a third of the total, and could also win other seats contested by the National Progressive Front (NPF) led by Assad's ruling Baath Party.

Independent candidates, some

spending over four million Syrian pounds (\$357,000) on their campaigns, have wooed voters with feasts, rallies, songs and speeches

in the liveliest run-up to an election in many years.

Loudspeakers blare election programmes ranging from calls for liberalisation of the largely state-run economy to improved supplies of basic goods and medicine.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians and picture of candidates adorn Damascus and other city streets ahead of the two days of polling Tuesday and Wednesday.

The NPF, grouping five smaller parties as well as the Baath, has nominated candidates for only 166 seats in the 250-member parliament.

The rest will go to indepen-

dents, who were allocated only 33 seats in the last election in 1986 when certain independents were guaranteed seats when included in an NPF list for each multi-seat constituency.

There are no parties in Syria other than the NPF six — Baath, Communist, Socialist Union, Socialist and Democratic Arab Socialist parties.

But diplomats said a wider sprinkling of independents in the new parliament would mean that most shades of Syrian opinion were likely to be represented.

Interior Minister Mohammad

Harbi said in a rare interview that all candidates were free to explain their programmes to the public. He said the government would treat NPF and independent candidates equally.

He said more than 9,000 candidates are standing, the largest number in five elections since 1970. NPF candidates include Prime Minister Mahmoud Zabti and Former Parliament Speaker Abdul Qadir Oaddour.

Assad, who has ruled since 1971, said in a speech to students last week that Syria would benefit from the political experiences of others but would not copy them.

New snag impedes Saudi-Iran accord on pilgrimage issue

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia Monday rejected Iran's conditions or means of allowing Iranian pilgrims to travel to Islam's holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina as a new religious snag was introduced into the conflict.

The rejection, reported by the official Saudi Press Agency and attributed to an unnamed government official, came on the heels of the first direct talks in two years between Iran and Saudi Arabia on the pilgrimage issue.

The two sides obviously failed to break their animosity over the quota system for the annual pilgrimage, and the Iranians were expected to be absent from the upcoming pilgrimage which culminates at Mecca and Medina early July.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Secretary Mohammad Ali Besharati was in Riyadh for two days last week during which he held long talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

The kingdom told the envoy that the quota system cannot be dropped, there can be no political demonstrations at Mecca and there must be no interference in internal affairs.

Besharati was the first Iranian

to visit Saudi Arabia since Riyadh broke relations in April 1988, accusing the Iranians of terrorism and subversion.

The Saudi Press Agency reported that the Iranians were insisting on "the pretext of issuing a declaration" disavowing the infidels" during the pilgrimage season. It said the Iranians had contended that such a declaration was imperative, under Koranic stipulations.

"The infidels at that time recited Islamic prayers and Koranic recitation in Mecca," the agency quoted as telling the Saudi negotiators. "But today in Mecca and its environs there is not single infidel to be disavowed."

In Islamic parlance, to disavow, or denounce, amounts to a boycott or antagonistic behest for Muslims and their allies against the infid

Baqa'a residents put on massive protest against Israeli massacre

By Sami Alyas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The largest Palestinian refugee camp in the Kingdom observed a general strike Monday as black flags were hoisted on top of buildings and thousands demonstrated in three separate peaceful marches throughout the day, in protest against the killing of Palestinians Sunday and in solidarity with the intifada.

The black flags fluttered from the tops of the tin-roofed shacks and mosques as all business and professional offices closed for the day in the Baqa'a refugees camp, 20 kilometres northwest of Amman. In the early hours of the morning about 25,000 people gathered in a spontaneous march protesting the massacre without the interference of the security forces, according to Abdallah Abu Farhan, member of the popular committee of the camp and an organizer of the March. He said that the schools also closed for the day as the students left the classrooms, to join the march.

"For the first time in the history of the Baqa'a camp, a march has been totally successful as no one tried to instigate trouble and the security forces did not interfere in any way," Abu Farhan told the Jordan Times, adding that participants were careful not to go outside the camp.

The camp, where nearly 70,000 refugees reside, has a

history of clashes with the security forces that erupted whenever a demonstration took place in the past.

The organizers of yesterday's march denied reports that there were serious clashes between the people and the police. The reports were that the demonstration reached Sereh, four kilometres from Baqa'a, and that there were serious clashes between the camp residents and the police.

The Jordan Times did not witness such clashes, and in fact, the demonstration did remain within the perimeter of the camp.

"Some individuals tried to go outside, but the protesters generally confined themselves to the perimeter of the camp," Abu Farhan said, adding that there was agreement to keep the march peaceful and organized, although it was a spontaneous one.

According to another member of the popular committee of the camp, George Haddad, the security forces "helped the march succeed because of their non-interference in the march." He told the Jordan Times that "despite the big numbers that turned out for the march there was awareness among the people not to become violent and turn a demonstration into a riot."

He also attributed the success of the march to the large participation of women and girls and "for the first time the slogans supported national uni-

versities. Children posed in front of the cameras of the press flashing victory signs.

"Write down that the Palestinian people are rising," a 10-year-old girl said to a reporter.

Abu Farhan said that another smaller-scale march took place Sunday night after the "isha" (evening) prayers and lasted for three hours. He said that the march ended peacefully.

The Muslim Brotherhood did not participate in any of these demonstrations, but called for another march afternoon prayers Monday. Witnesses said it gathered a few thousand people, but the Jordan Times could not obtain an accurate figure.

Late reports reaching the Jordan Times said that after the march and rally ended, "a small group of people left the camp to the main road and caused a riot. Despite our persistent efforts to prevent them," Abu Farhan said, "the group threw stones and burned tyres, causing the security men to over-react."

Television news reported that two people were wounded as a result of the clash "when (the small group of people) tried to march towards Amman and cause trouble."

But the security forces reacted by using tear-gas and fired warning shots in an effort to end the riots, resulting in the two injuries that were reported.

Slaying of Palestinians draws outrage from Jordanian officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Unity of ranks within the Arab World can help the nation to confront the Zionist onslaught on any part of the Arab World and can thwart the looming Zionist danger, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar said here Monday.

The ACC's secretary general Hilm Nammar, issued a statement in which he described the murder of the Arab workers in the occupied Gaza strip as part of Israel's official terrorist policies.

The ACC Secretary General said that Israel's history was full of atrocities ranging from the massacres of Deir Yassin, in 1948, to the burning of Al Aqsa mosque and the ongoing arbitrary attacks in Palestine.

Arar, who comes from this southern town, also expressed his hometown's sympathy with the Palestinian people following the assassination of 16 Palestinians at the hands of Jewish settlers and Israeli troops Sunday.

Other speakers at the ceremony also paid tribute to the struggle of the Palestinian people and outlined aspects of the programme which entails cultural and social services by local charitable

societies and youth clubs.

The killing of innocent Palestinians was also condemned Monday by the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which is based in Amman.

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Arabs to speed up efforts to achieve real solidarity in the face of Israel's terrorism.

The general-secretariat of the Arab Doctors Federation (ADF) which is preparing for a three-day medical conference in Amman, Monday issued a statement denouncing the cold-blooded murder as part of the on-going Israeli drive to massacre Palestinians with the open, continued and direct support from the United States.

The statement called on the

Arabs to end their differences and disputes to unify their ranks and extend meaningful support for the Palestinian intifada.

Meanwhile the general Islamic conference on Jerusalem issued a statement condemning the killing of innocent Palestinians in the occupied territories as a brutal massacre committed by the Zionists and Jewish settlers.

The statement said the heinous

crime clearly underlines Israel's ongoing plans to force the indige-

nous Palestinians to abandon their homeland.

While condemning the crime the general Islamic conference on Jerusalem pays tribute to the Palestinian intifada and urges all Arabs and Muslims to extend support to the oppressed Palestinians," the statement added.

Among the various Jordanian personalities interviewed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra Monday was Monsignor Raouf Najjar of the Roman Catholic church in Jordan.

"The killing of innocent people without provocation and the continued oppression against the Palestinians are to be condemned as they obstruct the peace process and turn to escalate tension to explosive proportions," Dr. Najjar said.

He said that while Arab countries continue to seek peace through an international conference their efforts are hampered by continued atrocities, continued seizure of Arab land and killing of innocent civilians.

European Parliament assails Israeli actions

AMMAN (Petra) — The European Parliament has issued a statement calling on the Israeli government to denounce the seizure of a hospice owned by the Greek Orthodox church in Jerusalem and urged it to return to the ministers party," Badran said.

On his talks with the Egyptian minister, Badran said they covered the implementation of an agreement among the ACC members: Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen on cooperation in the fields of natural gas, and oil.

Badran attended an Arab meeting here to discuss protection from radio activity in the food preservation processes and means of protecting the Arab environment from sources of pollution.

The European Parliament also called for sufficient protection to all places of worship and urged Israel to end all forms of encroachment on church property.

The parliament urged the foreign ministers of the European Community to take meaningful steps that would ensure protection for the Christian communities in the occupied Arab territories.

The patriarch called on the

linkage will be among the topics to be discussed by the ACC member states in Amman along with prospects for cooperation in

the six-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit the delegation met Prime Minister Mudar Badran and held talks with Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat on scopes of cooperation between Amman and Peking in the fields of organizing gardens, city planning and the different municipal services.

The delegation also toured several of the Amman Municipal projects and gardens as well as archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

The two groups have strong presences in India as well as Pakistan.

The mainstream Ahmadiyah who believe in Mirza Gulam Ahmad as only a reformer — are reported to have a strong following in Egypt, while the Qadis are — who consider him to be Muhammad as well as Mirza Gulam Ahmad as the messengers of God — oppose.

Both sects are followed by most Islamists, but some Muslim scholars are lenient toward the two sects' members and often adopt strict Sharia action against them.

The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) \$3 million agricultural marketing development project that began in 1988, will receive a \$1 million increment to continue project activities. During 1989, trial truck shipments of Jordanian vegetables sponsored under this project demonstrated that refrigerated trucking is technically and commercially feasible for export to Europe. The project also funded participation by Jordanian agricultural exporters in the international Green Week exhibition of agricultural produce in Berlin.

The Jordanian booth drew excited comment for its abundance of fresh vegetables in January.

As a result of project activities, AMO is launching a new market news service for fresh produce in local print and broadcast media. A team of investment analysts has recently completed the preparation of investment profiles for agribusiness investment opportunities in Jordan. Based on cost data and market opportunity data, the profiles indicate that such crops as table grapes, straw-

berries and peppers represent profitable investments for regional and foreign investors. The profiles will be distributed to investors locally and in Europe and the United States. Under the project, USAID will sponsor the travel of serious investors together with an investment counselor to Jordan.

AMO is also in the process of completing its market analysis to specify profitable market windows for the export of seven Jordanian agricultural products to the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Switzerland. This summer AMO will hold a series of one-day seminars for private sector producers and exporters to present the results of the analysis for each product on a separate day. The participants will see on video tape the production and post-harvest handling techniques required to put each product into the market during that market window. Printed manuals will also be available to the participants.

Today's signings also released a scheduled \$1.7 million increment for the \$27.5 million Jordan National Agricultural Development project. The project is currently constructing the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) and six Regional Service Centres (RASCs). This past winter, a plant virology specialist assisted NCARTT in establishing the only plant virology laboratory and greenhouse in Jordan at Deir Alla.

As a result of on-the-job training

NCARTT staff are currently studying in the United States for advanced degrees under the project and an additional four will begin studies this summer.

Their fields of specialisation include soils, irrigation, cereals, forage, barley, livestock production, virology, and extension.

Another 22 personnel, including 5 women, are masters and diploma students in agricultural disciplines at the University of Jordan.

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Jordan Times

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Attack against tourists condemnable diversion

THE INCIDENT in Amman yesterday, in which a gunman attacked French tourists wounding several of them along with a Jordanian photographer, has to be strongly condemned, first for what it is and then for whatever motive was behind it.

A crime is a crime, no matter what noble cause lies behind it. So the attack on Jordan's guests, other than being alien to our culture and tradition, is a deplorable act that cannot be possibly condoned by any sane human being. The probability that it was triggered by the assailant's feelings of anger and frustration at the massacre of Palestinians on Sunday does not lessen from its criminality one bit either. On the contrary, such an act, besides being the heinous crime it is, has diverted world attention from what is happening in Israel and the occupied territories, and as such it should be doubly condemned.

On the other hand, if the attack was aimed at tarnishing the image of Jordan as a safe country for friends and tourists to visit, or targeted at destabilising the Kingdom and endangering its security, then words of condemnation, no matter how strong, will not be enough. The fight has to be taken to the source and roots of aggression in that case.

In his statement to Jordan Television last night, His Majesty King Hussein expressed the belief that the motive behind the attack most probably lied in the feeling of fury that gripped the attacker at Amman's amphitheatre in the wake of Israeli genocidal acts against the Palestinians. Yes. But, even then, what purpose did the assailant's crime serve, other than the harm it has done to us and to the damage inflicted on the Palestinian cause as a whole?

Along with informing the rest of the world of Palestinian suffering, we have a duty to put our own house in order.

This is best done not by repressing our feelings of frustration and anger at whatever aggression Israel and the Israelis commit against our people in the occupied territories, but by translating those feelings into energy and actions capable of confronting enemy designs and practices.

We should do this for ourselves, but with a view to the world around us. This world has to be educated that violence breeds violence, and unless the international community moves in earnest to bring peace to this region, there will continue to be a growth of dangerous forces and factors that could create a mess much greater than the area has ever witnessed.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

All Jordanian dailies on Monday discussed the new massacre of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, condemning Israel's actions as an expression of official state terrorism. The message is loud and clear; and has reached all corners of the world, said Al Rai daily. The killer is Israeli, the weapon is American and the victim is the Palestinian Arabs, the paper noted. The message that should fall on the ears of the world community is that the Israelis, using American weapons are assassinating the Palestinian people in cold blood, regardless of Israel's claims that the killer was a mentally deranged person, the paper added. Israel's history is full of atrocities against the Arab population in Palestine and full of crimes perpetrated by Zionists and cars out by Israeli troops and settlers, said the paper. When the so-called mentally deranged Israeli soldier did, was an implementation of the Israeli government's policies, and the crime was in line with the plot being implemented to terrorise the Arab population and force them to leave their homeland, the paper pointed out. The paper said that the criminal's name has not yet been announced, and who knows, he might be Israel's next prime minister for his notorious act and for best serving Zionism's goals.

A columnist in Al Rai's daily Monday calls on the Arabs who are meeting in Baghdad later this month to opt for a confrontation with the Israeli enemy to put an end to Zionism's atrocities against the Palestinian people and to deal once and for all with the arrogance of the Jewish state. Tareq Masa'weh says the Arab leaders ought to realise that the Israelis are bent on killing Palestinians and perpetuating their occupation of Palestine and extending their hegemony on all Arabs; and therefore they should confront this challenge with dignity and determination to thwart enemy plans. In the light of the latest massacre committed in Palestine, says the writer, one cannot expect any peace with the Israelis, nor can the Arabs expect any proper action by the Europeans except an expression of regret over what happened despite the fact it is the Europeans who paved the way for the creation of Israel and took active part in aggression on the Arabs since the Balfour declaration earlier this century. The Soviets and the Americans should stop all manifestations of hypocrisy, because it is they who placed the weapons in the hands of the terrorists and criminals, and it is the superpowers who are currently plotting to strengthen Israel's hands, the writer adds. The Arab leaders in Baghdad should decide whether they are Arabs, and whether they are ready to protect Arab interests, concludes the writer.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Israeli army reacted to the cold-blooded murder of the eight Palestinian workers by killing another eight in the subsequent confrontation with the protesting masses. The criminal who killed the Arabs has been described as mentally deranged, as was the arsonist who burnt the Al Aqsa Mosque and those who committed massacres at Deir Yassin and numerous Palestinian towns and villages, said the paper. It said that despite their insanity these murderers, including the leaders of the present government, have been at the helm of their Jewish state, committing terrorist acts and all forms of atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Sitting on top of perestroika's powder keg

By Eduard Shevardnadze
THIS will be a heart-to-heart talk, a thinking out loud, something very personal deeply felt, perhaps. I wish to share with you what I have never spoken about in public, reflections on what I have succeeded in doing and what I have been unsuccessful in, on hopes unrealized and promises unfulfilled.

What will become of the party and consequently, of each of us? What position will each of us occupy as its fate is decided? However much we ask such questions and however we attempt to answer them, the entire immense complex of them cannot shield us from the most important thing — perestroika and its life and death. The question of the party and its future is inseparable from this.

We know the results of the slogan of adherence to principle in defense of party unity. The consequences were persecution for dissidence and expulsion from party ranks and then expulsion from life; terror, mass punitive measures, the grief of families and whole peoples.

The party found itself split between outwardly unquestioning obedience and inner protest and disagreement. It was from this inner protest and rejection of ingrained defects that the seeds of the policy we call perestroika began to appear. The main purpose of our party is perestroika and its success.

Let us think carefully about the fact that in dividing people into "radicals" and "conservatives" we could be repulsing or isolating loyal allies and thereby really splitting the party. With what danger is such a split fraught and who would it

benefit? This is by no means a rhetorical question. I have said repeatedly that if perestroika fails, dictatorship is possible.

Manifestos have been made public; actions are being mounted. On a practical level an attack on the country's leaders is under way — not only from the left but from the right also. Regret is even being expressed that the Central Committee plenum in February did not remove certain members of the leadership, the foreign minister included.

The savage expressions of the opponents of perestroika concerning, say, me, and some of my colleagues, do not embarrass me. But there are others — millions — at whom our homemade "extremists" are striking, and it is here that it is impossible to maintain composure.

Because in appealing to the masses, who are experiencing many difficulties, and taking advantage of their unhappiness, they deliberately throw a spark into the powder keg.

No one can calculate the consequences of a social explosion capable of igniting not only befogged minds but also the giant stockpiles of nuclear and chemical weapons and nuclear power stations in zones already weakened by natural disasters and regions shaken by interethnic strife.

Increasingly, accusations are being heard of slowness, inconsistency, a lack of boldness and so forth. It is also being said that perestroika has not only revealed our invertebrate ailments but has intensified them. Optimism today is not in fashion.

Many people are competing in pessimism and in making the most terrifying forecasts. I am

not their partner in this. My vision of the future is optimistic, of the economic future at least. The new economic structures and mechanisms are still taking shape.

A legal base of the reforms is being created. We are faced with making an extraordinarily complex maneuver in the sphere of pricing (the most difficult, perhaps), without which a market simply will not be formed. Everyone understands that this is a painful and unpopular action, but we have to make up our minds to embark on it.

For many years heavy industry had the "green light." Perhaps this was right in its time, but it later proved too heavy for the people's well-being.

One-sided progress in arms manufacture paradoxically weakened the country's security in its most important area — the situation of the citizen. While proud of having achieved military parity with the United States, we have forgotten that we cannot yet

even dream of parity in, say, disposable syringes.

Critics of perestroika are accusing us of betraying class principles. Meanwhile, the "class enemy" is applying us with these same syringes, anti-tumor equipment, prosthetic appliances and wheelchairs, and sending doctors and bone marrow.

I do not wish to remind you of the earthquake in Armenia, when we all, on both sides, remembered that we are simply people, members of a single worldwide, universal civilization. Perestroika has restored our humanity.

The belief that we are great country and that we should be respected for this is deeply ingrained in me, as in everyone. But great in what? Territory? Population? Quantity of arms? Or the people's troubles? The individual's lack of rights? Life's disorderliness? In what do we, who have virtually the highest infant mortality rate on our planet, take pride? It is not easy answering the questions: Who are you and

who do you wish to be? A country which is feared or a country which is respected? A country of power or a country of kindness?

It is difficult for me myself to answer these questions.

I remember returning from Geneva following the signing of the Afghan settlement agreements. I have never spoken about this. It might seem that I should have been happy; there would be an end to the caskets arriving in the country. We would be closing the books on deaths and spending that had reached 60 billion rubles.

Yet I felt profoundly depressed. It was hard for me to see myself as a foreign minister who had signed what was by no means a victory agreement.

Such had not been a frequent occurrence in the history of Russia and the Soviet Union. And I was further troubled by the thought of people whom we ourselves had nursed and roused to revolution and whom we were now leaving with a deadly enemy.

What is true patriotism? Satisfying the arrogance of statehood by sending other's children to die in a foreign country or the courage to recognize mistakes and prevent new ones, to spare young men, and to restore the country's good name?

I recall the storm of applause evoked by the words of one politician, whom I highly respect, to the effect that currently not a single question in the world can be decided without Soviet participation. This is truly the case. But the whole point is how it is decided and at what price.

We had long been rivals of the Americans. We are now

attempting, and not unsuccessfully, to interact. But even in our milieu we are surrounded by an atmosphere of suspicion and accusations: "We are betraying our own ideals!" At each step I hear behind me the whispering: "You have given away, sacrificed something somewhere, agreed to compromise somewhere, and so on."

Of course, profound changes will occur in our alliance, and our cooperation and interaction will be built on a new basis. And if we pursue the right policy and do not make mistakes, we will not have to worry about the future of our relations with the East European countries. We can and will know how to build civilized, equal relations with these countries.

Looking back at the years of perestroika, we may say with satisfaction that, as a whole, Soviet foreign policy has accomplished its most basic mission — the creation of the conditions most conducive to internal transformations in the country. We have smooth, stable relations with essentially all states.

The "Cold War" is becoming a thing of the past. Military spending are being reduced — in the last two years we have reduced the latter by 14 percent. These are real reductions, not propaganda. Countries' militarization levels, ours included, are declining. Military confrontation is on the wane.

All this is very well, but we are noticing that a mood of complacency is emerging in part of society. This cannot fail to cause concern. We are, after all, only at the start of the road. — The Washington Post

Deepening bitterness in Kashmir

By Earleen Fisher
The Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — An empty grave is kept ready at the new "martyrs cemetery" to receive the next victim of Kashmir's revolt against India's rule.

On the topmost branch of an ancient chinar tree a few metres away, the bright green flag of Islam flutters briskly in a light breeze that somehow fails to stir the drooping banner of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

But the spirit of the insurrection is far from sagging — despite the presence of Indian soldiers on every major street, despite the hospital wards full of people with bullet and beating injuries they say were inflicted by these "alien" soldiers, despite the government's intensifying counterinsurgency campaign, which was driving the leaders of the freedom movement deeper and deeper underground in the tangle of narrow alleyways.

No one doubts there will be more "shehads" or martyrs, for the cemetery under the chinair tree. Or for the scores of other new burial grounds in the Kashmir valley beneath the snow-capped Himalayas.

Nearly 400 people, mostly Muslim militants or their supporters, have died since Jan. 20. That's when the government embarked on its latest and harshest crackdown against the Kashmir rebellion, which has simmered, sputtered and flared over the past 43 years.

Last winter, it erupted again, this time into an escalating spiral of assassinations, bombings and kidnappings.

The Kashmir crisis is a legacy of 1947 when Britain bowed out of the Indian subcontinent, one of the vastest and most unlikely expanses of its once-mighty colonial empire. The Hindus and Muslims of British India, unable to recon-

stitute to commit nonpolitical crimes. All but 249 of the prisoners have been released, Jagmohan said.

The dragnet failed to snare Beg, who contends the authorities do not have his photograph, enabling him to walk unchallenged past Indian troops. Indeed, he strolled openly — although watchfully — down a street and into a building to meet a reporter for an interview arranged through intermediaries.

Only three days earlier, Beg said, he had led a midday attack that killed a paramilitary soldier in the centre of Srinagar.

The group kidnapped a Muslim university vice chancellor and a Hindu industrialist six weeks ago and killed them when Jagmohan refused to release three jailed militants.

The governor ordered 15 straight days of around-the-clock curfew and house-to-house searches that he said resulted in the arrest of 836 people, ranging from hardcore terrorists to "bad character" people who had taken advantage of the

mir for military training lasting up to 3 1/2 months at a hitch.

Beg's group is a wing of the oldest of the secessionist groups, the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, whose leader, Amanullah Khan, is based in the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir.

Beg and other militants said the independent Kashmir they envision should include the predominantly Hindu Jammu region plus all of Indian and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir.

Their proposed nation, whose only serious economic base is a multimillion dollar tourist business that evaporated during the violence, would be a landlocked enclave bordering Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and India.

It was frustration over the single-source economy that helped fuel the revolt. Throughout Srinagar, multilingual Muslim with bachelor's and master's degrees work as

office clerks and shopkeepers and accuse Indian officials of serving a disproportionate share of government posts for Hindus.

It is resentment of the government crackdown that helps keep the fire for independence burning. Any conversation with a gathering of a half-dozen or more people seems to produce at least one man or woman who angrily displays gashes, bruises or bone fractures healing in plaster casts.

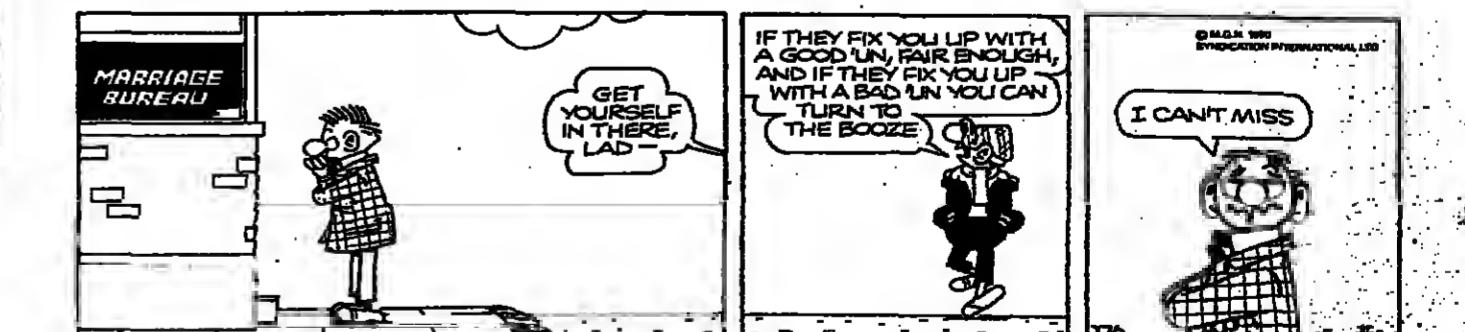
They always say their injuries were inflicted by Indian soldiers or paramilitary forces. In Srinagar hospital, a black scrawl on the wall declares: "long live free Kashmir. The death of the martyr is the life of the nation."

Hospital rooms turn into miniature political rallies as relatives, and even strangers visiting patients in other wards, crowd around the latest admissions.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Apologies

To the Editor:

On behalf of myself and many Palestinians in the occupied territories and in the diaspora, I would like to extend our sincere apologies to the French government, the French people and the French president for the irresponsible and stupid action against the innocent French tourists in Jordan. We condemn this action unreservedly. We send our sincere sympathies to the innocent victims and their families.

Walid M. Awad
Executive Trustee member
Green planning
P.O. Box 51261
Jerusalem

Features

Burmese youth pay price for freedom

By Christophe Peuchoux

RANGOON (WNL) — For generations — or, for, back as the 1920s — Burmese youths have given up their lives to bring about more justice in the political system. As the survivors among those who fled to the Thai border after the bloody 1988 repression look at the debris of their jungle camps recently destroyed by army attacks, they probably wonder if there is anything left to hope for.

Protests against the 1962 military takeover and demonstrations against military rule in the mid-1970s were either led or supported by students. In September 1987, when the government wiped out the entire savings of most Burmese citizens — more than 50 percent of the money in circulation in a sudden devaluation of the kyat (the Burmese currency), students were again the first to take to the streets.

Then, in March 1988, the military dictatorship embarked on a murderous campaign that began when the army and police used guns and clubs to suppress anti-government demonstrations. Within weeks a protest movement gained momentum, culminating in a nation-wide uprising calling for the restoration of a parliamentary democracy. Thousands of demonstrators, many of them students, were killed, wounded, or tortured to death during the government crackdown.

Afraid for their lives and vowing to continue fighting, about 10,000 students and other activists fled to the mountains bordering Thailand, China and India, where they took refuge with ethnic insurgent groups. Hit by malaria and homesickness, hundreds returned home after a few months, but it was estimated that about 4,000 remained in a dozen different camps controlled by Karen, Mon and Kayah insurgent tribes. The Burmese army's repressive but severely crippled these groups largely ignored by international refugee organizations. Only a handful of private relief agencies have been providing them with rice, medicine and other basics.

In one of these camps, shortly before it was destroyed by the army, I met several students who had participated in the pro-democracy movement. "When we arrived, we had nothing," recalled a former medical student who was in charge of the camp hospital. "There was no structure to resettle us. This Karen helped us, but they have very little for themselves. After several weeks we obtained blankets and mosquito nets. It was the end of the rainy season and this area is mosquito-infested, so almost everybody caught malaria. During the first six months over 20 students died, most from malaria."

In the camp hospital — a crude thatched-roof bamboo and plastic-sheeted shed — 25 young people are lying wrapped in thin blankets. One of them, a 20-year-old girl, is shivering with fever as an anti-malaria serum drips into her arm. Exhausted, she looks blankly at visitors, not even trying to smile. Even if the army does not find her in this primitive



A Karen soldier, from a tribe that has opposed the Burmese dictatorship for decades, guides student

refugees down the River Mai, which marks the border with Thailand (WNL photo).

camp, she may never see her family again.

Isolation is difficult to come to terms with. "Since we arrived here most of us have been completely out of touch with our relatives. Our parents often ignore where we are, or whether we are dead or alive. We do not dare to write to them. It is too dangerous. In the evening, under the blanket, we often think about them. We hope they do not forget us. We get nostalgic. Then sleep comes," says a young student with emotion. However, some parents manage to get letters to their children via travellers. The letters all carry the same message: "Stay away where you are, do not come back."

The fugitive students formed the All-Burma Students Democratic Front to continue their opposition. They say they are ready for armed combat, although they have almost no weapons; most have undergone "defensive" military training.

Commenting on the group's goals, Tun Aung Gyaw, former chairman of the student front, explained: "We are struggling for democracy and human rights against a military dictatorship. Inside the country, political parties and students also want democracy and human rights. So we have the same goals, but different means. Inside they set up parties and make demands. We do not trust the military, so we escaped to make our demands from the border. From here we can make our struggle known outside."

"Because parties and students are resisting peacefully inside, they can be arrested any time. To avoid arrest, they must often escape. Here, our first objective is to resettle fugitive students and to maintain student camps along the border with whatever materials we have. And then to prepare ourselves for the critical moment and to help the majority of the people in Burma. By critical moment, we mean when another popular uprising comes."

Tun Aung Gyaw also explained the new convergence between the objectives of the students and those of the ethnic minorities who suffered the brunt of the repression since the military regime took over in the 1960s: "One reason we came out was to know

the feelings and goals of the minority groups. We were told by the government that the minorities wanted their own country, that they were separatists. Now that we are living with them, we know what their feelings and demands are. In fact they accept the idea of federalism."

The former student leader continued, "We do political training, but we have no arms, only bamboo weapons. We do basic military training in order to know how to survive if the army attacks. In our camps we adopted a military mode of administration because we need discipline. Every morning we start with physical training. Then we bathe and have a meal. After that we can study in the library or in the newly opened jungle university."

After dark, around the campfire, memories from the recent past come up. "Our revolution was no-violent," recalls a 22-year-old student from Rangoon. "We knew we had to avoid provocations that would have played into the hands of the government. We had teams of stewards responsible for crowd control. After the resignation in June 1988 of General Ne Win, the party chairman of that of Maung Maung Kha's government in July, and that of Sein Lwin's in August, we believed we could win peacefully. But there were violent clashes on several occasions when angry crowds lynched suspected government-paid agitators. Students also clashed with hungry local residents who tried to break into a food factory. There were also army provocations. Because the large majority of demonstrators were peaceful, the military oceded the situation to deterioration. Conflicts are inevitable, we could not control everything."

Another student adds: "Until and immediately after the coup, student and opposition leaders warned against provocations and called for peaceful demonstrations. When General Saw Maung took over (in September 1988), he said the army had to assume power to prevent a breakdown in law and order, but the real threat was the growing pressure of democratic forces on the exclusive power of the military. We understood too late that they would not easily relinquish a

powerbase which took them 26 years to consolidate."

"One cannot kill the people for their own good," says a 24-year-old mathematics graduate from Rangoon. "One Sep. 18, the regime showed its real nature. We felt we had no other choice than taking up arms if we wanted to continue the struggle, if we wanted our friends, sisters or brothers who were killed before our eyes to not die in vain. It was hard to take this decision. But we felt it was our duty. We are not soldiers, we are students. But what is the alternative? Going back, surrender and agree to kneel down again? I hate violence but I am revolted. I still feel anger in my heart when I remember the soldiers opening fire onto the unarmed crowd. If I had a choice, I mean an acceptable choice, I would prefer going back to Rangoon, to my family and my girlfriend, from whom I have not heard for more than a year, and resume my studies."

If most of those who have decided to remain know why they are eking a living in the jungle, a few seem to see clearly, how to go about opposing the government from their remote border camps.

A recent gathering of students led to an innovative look at the dilemma of opting for armed struggle or political opposition. For the first time some student leaders felt the need to develop grassroots political organisations. "We need to go into the villages, work with the people and help them organise before taking up arms," said a former student leader. "Meanwhile, we need arms to defend ourselves if the government attacks us. Militarily we don't have the slightest chance against the government army which has been fighting insurgents for 40 years. Political work is needed first. It is the beginning of a long process."

According to the latest reports from the Burmese-Thai border, most Karen and Mon rebel camps fell to the army, which was eager to make maximum gains before the elections scheduled for May. Most student camps were also destroyed. The survivors are again picking up the pieces and starting off from nothing."

Within the camp hospital — a crude thatched-roof bamboo and plastic-sheeted shed — 25 young people are lying wrapped in thin blankets. One of them, a 20-year-old girl, is shivering with fever as an anti-malaria serum drips into her arm. Exhausted, she looks blankly at visitors, not even trying to smile. Even if the army does not find her in this primitive

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Palestinian fury unleashed

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday's cold-blood murder spilled over to several Israeli Arab towns.

Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising proclaimed that "the hour of retribution has arrived."

"Let the occupation army and the settler gangs pay with their blood the price that is due," said a leaflet distributed by the Unified National Leadership.

In what sources said was the first apparent revenge attack, Palestinian employees stabbed to death Yacov Shalom, a 40-year-old Jerusalem restaurant owner, Sunday night.

Violence also spread Monday in Israeli Arab towns, where a general strike was called by leaders of the

fundamentalist Islamic Jihad said it was responsible for the killing.

In the densely-populated Gaza Strip where three Palestinians were shot dead Monday, thousands of men, women and children headed the call of Islamic loudspeakers to "confront the enemy" and took to the streets chanting nationalistic slogans and "Allahu Akbar."

Women and children hurried stones at Israeli troops without hesitation, shouting at them "get out of here" in Hebrew. Tyres burned everywhere.

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U.S.-Soviet trade relations snagging on political issues

WASHINGTON (R) — Promising trends in U.S.-Soviet trade are snagging on Moscow's crackdown against the Baltic independence movement and its failure to ease emigration for minorities.

Some U.S. government and private analysts say these hitches may be so serious they could thwart the signing of important economic treaties at next week's summit between presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The biggest prize is a trade treaty, which would grant Moscow coveted "most-favoured-nation" (MFN) tariff treatment. New pacts on grain and shipping are also involved.

"We are working at it, but it is up to the president to determine if they should be signed," said an official at the U.S. trade representative's office.

Bush has expressed unhappiness at Moscow's hardline reaction to independence drives in

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, saying "it has put some tension on the summit."

But he has confined himself so far to appealing for a negotiated settlement and refrained from imposing any sanction on Moscow.

The Soviet Union has also failed to live up to Bush administration expectations it would pass a new emigration law permitting its citizens to leave the country freely.

The United States demands such a liberalisation as a precondition for waiving current U.S. restrictions on trade.

The Soviet parliament was expected to pass the law on May 22 but has postponed action until May 31 — the day the summit begins, a State Department official said.

"There are some rocky roads ahead on trade," said Margaret Chapman, director of the U.S.-USSR Trade Programme at the private American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations.

"Regardless of the situation in Lithuania, the president must go ahead, sign a trade agreement and grant most-favoured-nation status to the Soviet Union to level the playing field with our opposition — the Europeans and the Japanese," Chapman said.

She says both the United States and the Soviet Union need better trade ties with each other.

Official estimates valued 1989 U.S. exports to the Soviet Union at \$4.3 billion. Imports from Moscow were \$700 million.

The bilateral trade agreement would pave the way for Moscow to acquire MFN trade status, which would grant them the lowest U.S. tariff applied to any nation on most products.

It would also allow Soviet borrowing from U.S. banks and provide some protection for Americans investing in the Soviet Union.

Other agreements at stake are a new five-year grain trade accord and a shipping pact that would

allow cargo sharing between U.S. and Soviet ships.

Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said he hoped the grain pact would be signed at the summit, but added: "Lithuania has had a general effect on all the planning in the U.S.-Soviet area. It has simply affected the timing."

The grain pact would ensure that the Soviet Union, whose main imports are U.S. food items, buys at least 10 million tonnes of grains and oils worth billions of dollars to American farmers for five years starting next year.

American businessmen want the economic pacts signed at the summit to create a framework for rapid trade expansion.

The chamber believes the Soviets have satisfied emigration requirements and trade relations should not be used as a weapon,

said Willard Workman, an official of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a private business organisation.

Afghanistan negotiates with IMF, ADB for reconstruction funds

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for help with the massive cost of rebuilding the country now entering its twelfth year of civil war.

"To be honest, all of them said wait and see. Up to now we've had no positive reply," Deputy Prime Minister Sayed Amannanid Amin, with overall charge of the economy, told Reuters.

Virtually cut off from the world since the war began, Afghanistan has been living off Soviet aid and Amin calculates it will take up to 10 years to reconstruct the economy at a cost of between \$5 and \$10

billion.

"It's the same amount as total military supplies. It would be no problem for them (the countries supplying both sides with weapons to switch to aid) and it would be fruitful for Afghanistan," said the West German-educated former businessman.

He was there just after World War II. "I saw how the rebuilding of Germany was possible... it needed money and hard work."

But one diplomat warned, "International aid has its bounds and there is increasing competition for the money. The availability of funds does not get better the longer the war drags on."

Amin has high hopes for the largely farm-based economy, predicting a 12 per cent rise in gross national product in 1990/91 (March 21-March 20) after a drop of 7.1 per cent last year when Soviet troops withdrew.

The forecast is based on hopes of better export performance and greater output of textiles and food.

Amin has also freed some of the country's tough foreign exchange controls by removing the requirement for exporters to sell up to 20 per cent of their earnings to the government at a fixed rate.

This indirect intervention, including making state banks more free with foreign exchange to companies, has been partly responsible for this week's sharp rise in the afga from around \$50 to 100 two weeks earlier, Amin said.

But he would prefer to see less volatile changes on Kahni's money exchange bazaar, a warren of tiny offices next to the river.

"We hope if we get financial aid from the ADB and IMF, we'll be in a position to keep rates stable," he said predicting a rate of 50 afghanis to the dollar once the civil war ends.

Business with Eastern Europe and Africa together account for less than four per cent of South Africa's total trade but private export promoter Safto, which works closely with Nando's department, estimates East European trade could jump tenfold to \$950 million a year in five years.

Safto said overall exports grew a real 8.5 per cent in 1989, helped largely by unusually high prices for ferroalloys. It estimated 2.8 per cent growth in 1990 and 3.5 per cent in 1991.

Nando said joint ventures would play an increasingly important part in export growth.

He cited a plan by Taiwanese interests and South Africa's Samancor Limited Highveld Steel and Vandium Corporation Limited to establish chromium and stainless joint ventures. The plan envisages a two billion rand (\$760 million) plant in South Africa capable of producing 300,000 tonnes of steel a year.

WARSAW (AP) — Government and solidarity officials appealed to railway workers in northwestern Poland Monday to end a strike, saying that meeting their pay demands would sabotage the nation's economic reform programme.

An undetermined number of workers halted rail traffic in the provinces of Stupsk and Koszalin near the Baltic coast Saturday night, joining about 35 colleagues who had been on a hunger protest, some since May 10.

On Monday, the labour action spread south to Pila, where employees blocked an alternative route to Poland's busiest port of Szczecin, the official PAP news agency said.

Railway workers in Inowrocaw, also south of the striking provinces, staged a four-hour warning strike Sunday night saying they would wait two days for talks.

The government appeal to end the strike said: "A decision to satisfy the pay demands at present would make the entire economic programme collapse and mean the wasting of many months of effort by the whole society to put the country's difficult situation under control."

The president of the solidarity national railway branch joined the call, saying strike actions "result only in society's indignation" and undermine efforts to "fulfill our just demands in the best way."

The strikers seek pay increases of up to 110 per cent above the average monthly salary, now about 750,000 zlotys (\$79), and increased pensions, PAP said. They also are demanding removal of the management established by the ousted Communist government for the state-run railway, and changes in the organisation.

A meeting of the strike committee and the railway management in Warsaw ended Saturday without result, PAP said.

Workers appealed to Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to send a representative to Szupsk for talks.

"We assure you that we are not trying to slow down reforms," a representative, Zbigniew Smykowksi, told Polish radio. "We went too far to stop now. We want our enterprise reformed and that's what we are fighting for first of all."

Pretoria said to be winning export markets after reforms

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa is winning new export markets as apartheid reform reduces political hostility overseas, a senior trade official said.

Stef Naude, director general of the Department of Trade and Industry, said reforms by President F.W. de Klerk had made exports "far easier" for the sanctions-hit economy.

"Quite frankly our problem is not finding markets or producing the goods for those markets," he said in an interview. Lack of capital is usually the problem in new markets."

He suggested this occurred commonly with new trade partners in Africa, China and Eastern Europe. Direct trade with these regions, long bastions of apartheid opposition, was growing.

Poland signed agreements with South Africa last month to buy 200,000 tonnes of iron ore and set up a food venture which it said could soon reach a turnover of \$200 million a year.

You choose your own inflation figure in Brazil

By Michael Stott
Reuter

RIO DE JANEIRO — Question: How much did prices rise in Brazil last month?

Answer: Between 1.70 per cent and 44.80 per cent, depending on whom you believe.

Calculating inflation in Brazil, a country repeatedly battered by hyperinflation, is an art rather than a science.

President Fernando Collor de Mello's government announced after taking office in March that it would no longer officially recognise any inflation index.

"The government wanted to avoid having to index wages with prices, one of the main causes of inflation in the past," Rio-based economist Edmar Bacha said.

Since then Brazil has had a free market in inflation figures, with more than a dozen choices.

"The one thing there's no shortage of in Brazil is inflation figures," the newspaper Jornal do Brasil commented Friday.

Collor has staked his credibility on choking off inflation, which was nearing an annual 5,000 per cent when he took

office.

So it came as no surprise that after first claiming that April inflation was zero, he plumped for a figure at the lower end of the range, 3.29 per cent.

Employers, obliged until Thursday to index wages by the government-approved figure, breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Unions were less happy. They pointed out that the respected Brazilian geography and statistics institute had released and April inflation figure of 44.80 per cent.

Although this figure is not strictly comparable — it reflects price rises from mid-month to mid-month — it was still billed as an "April" figure.

A typical mid-range number was the INPC index, used as the official inflation indicator between 1986 and 1987. It showed price rises of 14.67 per cent for calendar April.

For most Brazilians, a more reliable indicator of the way prices are heading is the worth of Brazil's latest currency, the two-month-old cruzeiro.

When Collor announced March 16 the drastic anti-inflation package that launched the cruzeiro — Brazil's

fourth currency in four years — the black market dollar crashed from 80 to 35 cruzeiros overnight.

Since then it has climbed steadily as public confidence in the government's ability to kill inflation waned. This week the U.S. currency stalled through the 80-cruzeiro barrier with ease to reach a peak of 90 on Thursday.

The more the dollar rises, the clearer it is that public confidence in the government's ability to control inflation is waning," Bacha commented.

If Brazil's inflation figures are confusing, the currency is more mysterious.

It may be called the cruzeiro but banknotes have not yet caught up and are still denominated in the previous currency, cruzados novos (new cruzados). There are even some notes in circulation from the currency before that, the cruzado.

A cruzado novo is worth the same as the cruzeiro, but the old cruzado is only worth one-thousandth of a cruzado novo.

So a basic rule of thumb is: The higher the denomination of the note, the less it is worth — until the currency changes again.

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'China ends austerity plan, begins reforms'

PEKING (R) — China has ended a 20-month austerity programme and is willing to risk inflation as it rebuilds its battered industries, a senior Chinese economist said Monday.

Li Yongina, a division chief at the state commission for restructuring the economy, also told Reuters some key market-oriented reforms — neglected after last year's military crackdown — will be resumed.

"We can say our policy of tightening credit has already come to a full stop," said Lu, who works directly under Premier Li Peng in one of China's most powerful economic think-tanks.

Western diplomats said Lu's comments were a sign orthodox Marxist economic doctrines were losing pre-eminence and that free-market ideas were cautiously emerging.

Since Premier Li launched the austerity drive in late 1988, it has been dragging down inflation from a nationwide average of 12 per cent in 1989 to 4.6 per cent in April this year.

But it has also caused slack market demand, an industrial slump, falling labour productivity and has cost the government heavily in subsidies to insolvent state-run firms and payments to swelling ranks of unemployed.

The next phase in our development is to solve the problems caused by the austerity programme," said Lu in an interview. He is currently mapping out China's next five year economic plan from 1991 to 1996.

Reflation has already begun, he said. The country's top four banks lent 25 billion yuan (\$5.3 billion) to industry in the first quarter of this year.

Consumer demand will be stimulated by low interest rates, and extra loans will be granted to major companies currently hobbled by debts, Lu said.

Privately-owned rural enterprises — the powerhouse of China's

economy before about 20 per cent or some 800,000 went out of business last year — are also to be encouraged, he added.

He predicted that with these measures, China should be able to attain a five per cent increase in industrial output value this year compared with last. The state's target is around six per cent.

"Inflation will probably increase but I think we will be able to keep it under 10 per cent for the year," said Lu.

Foreign investors and bankers have remained cautious over China in recent months because of misgivings on the strength of the economy and the neglect of free-market reforms.

Many such reforms — especially price reform — were championed by former Communist Party Chief Zhao Ziyang, ousted last year after being blamed for inflation and being too soft on the pro-democracy protests which ended with an army crackdown in Peking last June.

But Lu said price reform is once more to be pushed through, although at a slower pace than under Zhao.

We are definitely going to reform prices but not in one leap — just gradually," Lu said.

"Vietnam did it in one leap and got about 1,000 per cent inflation."

Lu said it would take five to 10 years for China to eliminate a "two-tier" system under which some prices are kept artificially low by state subsidies while others are set by market forces.

"In the end, there must be one price in China and that price must be the market price," said Lu.

He said more than 50 per cent of prices in China are already decided outside state control.

China says price reform is essential to make its industries competitive, rationalise distribution of scarce resources and avoid waste of raw materials kept cheap by state subsidies.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 22, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a wonderful day for arriving at long range decisions that can affect your future. Your desire to have everything on a very meticulous and detailed basis should be working to your advantage.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Confer with congenial companions who entertain you and make appointments and have a good time tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well today the financial and other practical needs and wants of members of your family and do what you can do to make them a reality for them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Personal longings that obsess you are quickly laid if you will get in touch with friends who understand how best to aid you to attain them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The best way for you to get out from under some restricting condition is to get one of consider how-to clue you in on best way.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you let one who has made a success of proven conditions know of your new and unusual ideas, you can find out how best to combine the old and the new.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Bring a private worry into the

Sports

Rarick wins Pat Bradley International

HIGH POINT, North Carolina (AP) — Cindy Rarick held off three-round charges by Hollie Stacey and Beth Daniel to capture the \$600,000 Pat Bradley International Sunday.

Rarick, struggled with her last three holes — bogey, par, bogey — and finished with 25 points under the modified Stableford scoring system, which rewards bold play and penalizes mistakes with points instead of strokes. It was the fourth career victory for Rarick and she took home \$62,500.

"I was just happy to have it over with," Rarick said smiling. "I knew after Friday's round, I could still win this tournament."

Daniel, finished second with 24 points, 10 to the final round. Stacy, who finished on the back nine after a hot front side, also had 10 points in the last round and closed with 23 points.

Stacy went on a birdie run on the front nine and tied Rarick, third-round leader, for the top spot at the turn. A three-time U.S. women's open champion, Stacy played her first four holes in regulation, but birdied the next five to take her share of first place with 23 points.

Beginning the back nine, Stacy bogeyed the 10th hole, made up two points with a birdie at 13, then used her iron play to put the ball close to the hole for her closing five holes. Her putting touch eluded her, however, and the end came for Stacy at 18. Her final shot went right and rolled underneath some pine trees.

With no shot at the green, Stacy was forced to chip into the fairway and failed to save par on a short putt.

Daniel, who for a time had overtaken Rarick, was at 21 points after nine holes. Like her partner in the next-to-last threesome, Daniel was around the hole on the back nine, but her last chance at victory slipped away when she missed a 10-footer for birdie at 18.

"I made six birdies and two bogeys. It was just the kind of day where everybody is making birdies. It was wild," Daniel said.

Sheri Steinheuer was fourth with 22 points. Jili Inkster was next with 21 points, and Danielle Ammendapane and Debra Richard followed with 20 points.

Under the modified Stableford system used for this tournament, par earns a golfer 10 points. Birdies are worth two points,

eagles are worth five points and double-eagles gain eight points. At the other end, bogeys lose a point and double bogeys and worse cost three points.

In Fort Worth, Texas, Ben Crenshaw shot a 4-under par 66 Sunday, easily winning his second Colonial golf tournament title by three strokes.

The anticipated struggle with Curtis Strange failed to materialise and Crenshaw appeared on the way to a more-or-less routine victory until he put some excitement into it on the 17th hole.

He drove drifted into the swiftly flowing run-off water of a morning thunderstorm.

The ball, bobbing and bouncing in the water in the concrete-lined ditch, traveled about 100 yards back toward the tee and the clubhouse.

Crenshaw went trotting along beside the ditch until the ball finally disappeared in a flood control area.

It didn't really matter, however.

Crenshaw, who finished with an 8-under 22, took a drop from the point at which the ball entered the hazard, played his next shot to the green and got away with a bogey that, in view of his three-shot lead, was without meaning.

When his closest pursuer, Nick Price, also made bogey from a bunker on the same hole, Crenshaw lost no ground, only a golf ball.

It was the only real glitch in an otherwise impressive performance that was aided by Strange's self-destruction on a pair of three-putts early in the day.

The inclusion of Wright had been the biggest uncertainty as Robson prepared to announce his squad a day before England's penultimate warm-up match, against fellow World Cup qualifiers Uruguay.

As expected, David Seaman, who joined Arsenal last week for £1.3 million (\$2.2 million) was preferred to Chelsea's Dave Beasant as third choice goalkeeper behind Peter Shilton and Chris Woods.

Robson will take with him a well-balanced squad that boasts form, flair and experience.

"The mix between the experienced players and the young players is very, very good," Robson said.

Stevens, one of four Glasgow

Rangers players named, is among 11 survivors from the Mexico

World Cup, while Shilton, captain Bryan Robson and defender Terry Butcher also went to Spain for the 1982 finals.

The newest recruit is Aston Villa's David Platt, who has impressed Robson since England qualified.

Midfielder Neil Webb, who has missed six internationals since rupturing an achilles tendon playing against Sweden last September, proved his fitness by helping Manchester United to win the F.A. Cup against Crystal Palace last Thursday.

Wright's only action since the

1988 European championship fin-

ish was to play with John Maffey at 27. Maffey had a closing 66, Pavia and price 68 on the Colonial country club course. Strange, who matched par over the final 18 holes and Hubert were next at 76.

Payne Stewart, Samers, Brian

Tennyson and Andrew Magee

followed at 77. Tennyson and Magee shot 66, Stewart 67.

Crenshaw pulled away from his

other serious challengers with

three consecutive birdies begin-

ning on the seventh hole.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSON

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DUPLICATE OR RUBBER?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

★ 7 5 3

★ Q 9 4 2

★ 8 6 4

★ A K 5

WEST

★ 10 9 6 4

★ Q J 9 8

★ K 7

★ J 7

★ Q 10 9 5 3 2

★ Q

SOUTH

★ A K 2

★ A J 10 8 3

★ Q K

★ 7 4 3

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

1 V: Pass: 2 S: Pass:

4 V: Pass: Pass: Pass:

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

Study this hand, then tell us what you think the result should be at duplicate and at rubber bridge. Suggest a line of play at each form of the game.

Another auction that depends on simple arithmetic. After North's two-heart bid, South's hand is worth 20 points and, even if North has a dead minimum for a single raise, there are sufficient combined assets to merit a shot at game.

Go to the top of the class if you suggested that, at duplicate, declarer

should go down one trick, but South can guarantee 10 tricks at rubber bridge. The great disparity between these results is that duplicate pays handsomely for overtricks, whereas rubber bridge does not.

At duplicate, declarer should win the first club trick and, despite the appearance of the queen, run the nine of hearts. As the cards lie, that loses to the king and the ten of clubs comes back. East ruffs away the ace and, as long as East carefully jettisons one of his spade honors to allow West to win the third hand, declarer must still lose a trick in each suit except diamonds.

At rubber bridge, declarer wins

the opening lead and immediately plays a trump to the ace and another.

No matter how the hearts lie, declarer can lose no more than one trick in each suit except diamonds.

Why not play that way at duplicate? The chances of the trump finesse working are 50 percent, whereas a 6-1 club break occurs only one in 6 times. And if, indeed, East holds a singleton club, that declarer is far more likely to hold trump length, headed by the king. Therefore, the finesse is well worth the risk.

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Steinlager 2 nears victory in yacht race

LONDON (R) — Steinlager Two, a red-hulled ketch from New Zealand, looks set to sweep to victory in the southern English port of Southampton Tuesday morning after one of the world's most arduous yacht races.

"Short of being dismantled, the trophy's theirs," said a spokeswoman for the 33,000-mile Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race, whose sixth and final leg

is a champagne reception.

The leading yachts just need a strong southeasterly wind to send them racing past the finish line, where an enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers is expected.

A dramatic air-sea rescue was mounted Sunday to reach one competitor who was seriously ill on his yacht more than 300 miles off the southwest coast of Britain.

Yachtman Andrew Dibbell, suffering from a kidney problem, was recovering in hospital Monday.

On Monday morning Steinlager Two, captained by Peter Blake, was about 35 hours ahead overall of another New Zealand ketch, Fisher & Paykel, with 210 miles of the race still to go.

The two ketches, with their extra speed advantage, have dominated the nine-month race with organisers praising their immaculate preparation and skilful crewing.

It is the fifth and longest Whitbread race with 23 yachts involved.

Third place is likely to be snatched by Switzerland's Pierre Fehmann and his stoop merit which Monday was managing to keep off British challenger Lawrie Smith in Rothmans.

As the sun rises Steinlager Two will sail up the English Channel and into Southampton water and

Rainey wins motorcycle grand prix

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy (R) — World champion leader Wayne Rainey of the United States grabbed his third 500 cc win of the season Sunday when he triumphed in the Italian motorcycle grand prix after the race was stopped and then restarted because of rain.

Organisers red-flagged the race at the hairpin-strewn Misano track two thirds of the way through. Riders later completed it with another 11 laps.

American Kevin Schwantz cleared the finish line on his Suzuki ahead of Rainey but came in second on overall timings, two seconds behind his compatriot Michael Doohan of Australia was third on a Honda.

It was not the first setback of the race in which three people have died. A Soviet skipper hanged himself in Uruguay; a Swedish yachtman was killed in a motorcycle accident and a British

motorcyclist was killed in a collision with a car.

Rainey's victory on a Yamaha, following wins in the Japanese and U.S. grands prix, stretched his points tally to 77 against the 50 of his nearest rival, Australian Wayne Gardner.

Honda-rider Gardner, who raced despite breaking a rib in a collision with Frenchman Christian Sarrou in Saturday's practice, came home in fourth place after briefly leading the second race in light rain.

It was the second year running that rain stopped the grand prix at Misano. Last year the world's top riders pulled out of the race when organisers stopped it, then restarted it in driving rain.

Italian pier Francesco Chili, third in the world standings and the winner here last year, had his ambitions swiftly cut short by Italy.

England fly to Sardinia Friday. They will play the first stage, against the Netherlands, Ireland and Egypt, in the island's capital, Cagliari.

Robson will take with him a well-balanced squad that boasts form, flair and experience.

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ning on the seventh hole.

Barnes betters world record in shot put

Pattison Plummer easily won the sluggish women's mile by more than four seconds with a time of 4:29.54.

The race was expected to be far more competitive with the presence of world record holder Paula Ivan of Romania.

But Ivan turned in one of the most disappointing performances of the meeting as she trailed badly throughout the race and finished a distant fifth at 4:38.32.

Joe Falcon finished a second ahead of U.S. record holder Steve Scott to take the men's mile in 3:56.22, Doug Padilla was third in 3:57.42.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, Americans dominated the opening grand prix meeting of the outdoor athletics season Sunday with Danny Harris leading the way with a blazing victory in the 400-metre hurdles.

Harris turned in the fastest 400-metre hurdles in the world this year with his 48.13 second victory at Sao Paulo's Ibirapuera stadium.

Harris was more than a full second faster than compatriot Kevin Young who was second in 49.23, well ahead of Senegal's Olympic silver medalist Amadou Dia Ba, who finished seventh in 50.70.

Cuban athletes, who arrived only an hour before the meeting after flying all night, managed two victories. Roberto Hernandez won the 400 metres in 45.44 seconds and Isidro Lopez took the women's javelin with a 65.48-metre throw.

But Javier Sotomayor, the world's top high jumper, came up three centimetres short of American winner Hollis Conway's 2.33-metre jump. Sotomayor's best jump of 2.30 metres left him tied for second with American Jerome

Carter.

And Cuban track star Ana Quirot, rated number one in the world in the women's 400 metres, finished a disappointing fifth with a time of 51.82 seconds. American Rochelle Stevens won the event in 51.01, beating Brazilian Maria Magnolia Figueiredo, whose 51.11 seconds bettered her previous South American record of 51.32 seconds.

Local fans got a thrill when 1984 Olympic 800 metres champion Joaquin Cruz won the event in 1:46.32 accompanied by enthusiastic shouts of "Brazil! Brazil!" from the partisan crowd of 17,000.

American athletes also demonstrated their dominance of the sprints.

Observers say Romania elections flawed

Iliescu wins landslide victory

BUCHAREST (R) — International observers said Monday that Romania's elections, which returned the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) to power by huge majorities, were flawed but they had not observed systematic electoral fraud.

A 60-strong U.S. and British-led delegation said the front, a catch-all centre-left grouping which assumed power amid chaos after last December's bloody revolution, had not established its democratic credentials through the elections.

"The process was flawed but the very fact that an election has taken place is itself a remarkable achievement which none of us would have believed possible a year ago," they said in a statement.

The observers were delivering their verdict on opposition charges that Sunday's polls for a president and two-chamber parliament were as fraudulent as those held under deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

According to early projections by a West German polling institute, Romanians opted overwhelmingly in their first free elections for more than 50 years for the interim head of state, front leader Ion Iliescu, as president.

Iliescu, a 60-year-old one-time senior Communist Party official sidelined by Ceausescu for dissent, won a thumping 83 per cent majority in a contest with two other candidates, projections by the respected Infas Institute showed.

The front also took control of both houses of parliament with a two-thirds majority.

The first task of the new 387-seat assembly and 119-member senate is to elect a new constitution to replace one under which Ceausescu ruled at the head of the Communist Party for nearly

U.S. observers sent by President George Bush also concluded the election was properly conducted and free from serious fraud.

"The Romanians have taken a very giant step toward a democracy," New Mexico Governor Garrey Carruthers, the delegation leader, told a news conference.

"In our view it was a proper election... we were unable to discover anywhere in our observations obvious, systematic fraud in the electoral process."

Carruthers said he had just come from discussions with the two presidential candidates defeated by Ion Iliescu of the ruling National Salvation Front.

"They don't feel similarly... they have a number of allegations which I think need to be addressed."

Defeated presidential candidate Ion Radu of the National Peasant's Party, standing nearby, told Reuters:

"It's just eyewash. Throughout the election everything was done to gag us from getting our point of view across. He (Carruthers) only saw in the window-dressing. He did not see behind the scenes."

Carruthers and his team, who have been in Romania for four days, were seen by Romanians as the key group among foreign observers monitoring the elections.

Carruthers said there had been flaws in the electoral process, and that the front might have made undue use of what he termed "the power of the incumbent."

He called for a free press and said he would recommend to Bush that the United States should encourage establishment of radio and television stations free of government control.

"There will always be allegations of fraud in any free elections," he said. "We cannot ignore those allegations."

He urged that parties should pursue their complaints in the courts or that an independent body should be set up to investigate them without delay to boost confidence in the country's democracy.

Ratin said he intended to go to court. "But if they (the front) control the government, if they control parliament, they will re-establish Communism."

The result showed that Romanians — in contrast to East Germans and Hungarians, who ditched reformist Communists and opted for centre-right coalitions — had chosen a grouping branded neo-Communist by its opponents in voting the front into power.

Opposition presidential candidates Radu Campleanu and Ion Radu announced moments after polling stations closed Sunday night that they considered the elections a sham.

"I find the results monstrously exaggerated and they remind me of the returns in Ceausescu's time," said Campleanu, who won 11 per cent according to the predictions.

Radu said some ballot papers had already been stamped with a party's or candidate's name when voters received them, and identity cards of dead people had been used to allow fraudulent voting.

Ratin, a millionaire who returned from exile in Britain to run for the presidency, won six per cent of the vote, according to the computer predictions.

Iliescu said in a statement he was convinced that the foreign observers, some 430 of whom were scattered around Romania for Sunday's vote, would see "the virtues of Sunday's truly free elections."

Initial unofficial comment from observers was mixed. British Conservative Parliamentary Eiwin Currie said she saw no evidence of fraud.

Flotilla demonstrates off Cuba

KEY WEST, Florida (R) — Heavy seas and a Cuban patrol boat on the horizon took much of the wind out of the sails of an anti-Castro flotilla of Cuban-Americans who staged a sea-borne protest demonstration off Havana Sunday.

The sailors, some of whom veterans of the U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 against Fidel Castro's government, returned after a peaceful protest during which they threw a wreath into the water to honour Cubans who died in the unpredictable straits fleeing the Communist leader's rule.

"Castro knows we are on his back, demanding the freedom of Cuba," said Jon Garrido, a sailor in the flotilla.

The organizers of the trip across the 90-mile stretch of the Florida Straits between Key West and Havana and refused Saturday to accept a U.S. Coast Guard recommendation they hold their demonstration 30 miles off the Cuban coast.

They insisted they would stop a mile outside the 12-mile limit.

However, as the flotilla, diminished from the 60 vessels that set sail to just 28 because of daunting waves of two to three metres, drew to within 30 to 40 kilometres off Cuba, a Cuban patrol boat could be seen on the horizon by a Reuters correspondent on board a boat.

According to Miami's Cuban-American Mayor Xavier Suarez, who was in the flotilla, the protest leaders made an "internal decision" not to proceed. Suarez said the flotilla leaders exchanged "tense" radio messages with the Cuban vessel.

A U.S. Coast Guard spokesman said: "A Cuban patrol boat was spotted on the horizon but did not make any threatening moves of any kind."

In Cuba, the state-controlled media made no mention of the flotilla and authorities were tight-lipped about possible security measures to protect Cuban territorial waters.

Low clouds obscured the horizon around Havana and it would have been impossible to sight the amada from land.

The flotilla that set sail consisted of only 60 so of the more than 100 vessels hoped for by organizers. Skippers of some small boats decided not to risk the trip and others, in boats as small as five metres, hung on for half the five-hour voyage before turning back.

Not all the flotilla skippers were happy with the decision to take unpaid vacations.

Darins Szedzidelis of the Lithuanian-American Committee said demonstrators are coming by bus and plane from all over the United States and Canada.

Trade negotiators want most favoured nation status for Moscow allowing Soviet goods into the U.S. at low tariffs and making the U.S. market competitive with Europe and Japan.

Other trade agreements at stake include a new five-year grain accord and a shipping pact to share cargo.

The grain pact would ensure

Moscow buys at least 10 million tonnes of grain and oilseeds worth billions of dollars to American farmers for five years starting next year.

A new climate in trade would also allow Moscow to import the U.S. technology it needs to bolster a sagging economy.

But the success of the summit could be decided by the events thousands of miles away in the Baltic Republics.

"Sure, there's a cloud over the summit because of Lithuania," Bush's National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft said bluntly this weekend.

As many as 10,000 Americans with roots in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are organizing for protests.

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Officials are also working around the clock to wrap up agreements for U.S. President George Bush and Gorbachev to sign so that they can have a routine "full and frank exchange of views."

The main aims are a strategic arms reduction (START) agreement to reduce nuclear weapons arsenals, and pacts on cutting chemical weapons and conventional forces in Europe.

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Dubbed "a tale of three cities" because of visits by Gorbachev and wife Raisa to Washington, Minneapolis and San Francisco, the tour starts on May 30 and ends on June 4.

"It doesn't help not to have the schedule," said secret service spokesman Rich Adams.

Soviet embassy official George Shebekochukin agreed:

"It's hectic. We don't have final arrangements."

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